



What are the *Together for Quality* goals?

1. Medicaid Transformation: To change the way Medicaid does business by simplifying provider access to and use of information at the point of care by developing a real-time, claims-based electronic health record for provider use to improve patient care. We will also develop a clinical support tool using care management data to allow providers to improve care choices and better manage their patients, especially the high risk.
2. Statewide health information system development: To create connectivity and interoperability among Alabama's state agencies and other providers to establish efficient, electronic information-sharing that improves health and controls costs.

Who are the *Together for Quality* stakeholders?

Governor Riley, Alabama Medicaid Agency; and the Alabama Departments of Public Health, Senior Services, Mental Health, Human Resources, Rehabilitation Services, and Information Systems. Also, Alabama's Medical, Primary HealthCare, Pharmacy, Primary Care Physicians, Family Practice Physicians, Hospital, and Nursing Home Associations; Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation, Providers, Consumers, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, Employers, and the Governor's Task Force to Strengthen Alabama's Families.

Why do we need *Together for Quality*?

Chronic disease accounts for 75% of all costs in the health care system and is the cause of death in 7 out of every 10 deaths (<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/overview.htm>, 2007). Alabama's leading causes of death include heart disease, stroke and diabetes, all of which can be controlled. *Together for Quality* has the potential to:

- Improve health outcomes through the provision of chronic disease case management, thereby reducing Alabama's chronic disease burden and preventing complications;
- Improve health services coordination and reduce duplicated services through electronic data use and data-driven quality improvement, thereby reducing costs in the healthcare system;
- Enhance public health, disease surveillance and disaster preparedness;
- Advance healthcare research; and
- Control and reduce costs.

How is *Together for Quality* being implemented?

- We are convening stakeholders to achieve consensus; maintaining stakeholder participation to develop a governance model that will safeguard privacy and security while achieving objectives that demonstrate value and create sustainability.
- We are developing an electronic health record and clinical support tool; providing user support and resources as core elements of the quality improvement process.
- We are developing the enterprise architecture to create interoperability among multiple stakeholders' databases and develop the Patient Data Hub (PDH--the foundation of an Alabama statewide health information system) to create stakeholder value through efficiencies.

Need more information?

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